



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,294	08/04/2005	Claude Casses	003D.0039.U1(US)	6475
29683	7590	06/19/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/522,294

Applicant(s)

CASSES ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Harvey

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 August 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Cancellations

- The cancellation of claim 4 has been made of record.

Claim Objections

The following claim(s) is/are objected to because of the noted informalities:

In reference to Claim(s) 15, the recitation “inclined lateral walls” is confusing because the walls are either inclined or lateral and cannot be both at the same time. An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.

-- Appropriate response to the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject

Art Unit: 2833

matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim Examination

** Claim(s) 9-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mancini et al. (3781760).

In reference to Claim(s) 9, Mancini shows (figures 2-5) an electrical contact 34; retaining member 50 with a bearing surface ((52 to 64);

The electrical contact 34 has a nonplanar shoulder 56 contacted by the bearing surface ((52 to 64),

The nonplanar shoulder 56 and the bearing surface ((52 to 64) form a wedging contact (figure 3) as compared to figure 6.

In reference to Claim(s) 10, Mancini shows the retaining member 50 has a deflectable blade (near the lead line of numeral 76; figure 6).

In reference to Claim(s) 11, Mancini shows an end of the blade 60 extends in front of the bearing surface ((52 to 64).

In reference to Claim(s) 12, Mancini shows the bearing surface ((52 to 64) has a blade 60.

In reference to Claim(s) 13, Mancini shows the blade 60 has inclined lateral walls (54,58) defining the rear ward sides.

In reference to Claim(s) 14, Mancini shows the nonplanar shoulder 56 has a recess (below 56 and (near the lead line of numeral 60, figure 3).

In reference to Claim(s) 15, Mancini shows walls (near the lead line of numeral 60; figure 3) that are lateral when blade 60 is not deflected at 76 (figure 6) become inclined when the blade 60 is deflected at 76.

In reference to Claim(s) 16, Mancini shows the bearing surface ((52 to 64) has a blade 60 with a inclined lateral wall 54 and the nonplanar shoulder 56 has a recess (below 56 and near the lead line of numeral 60 figure 3) with at least one inclined wall 56 (figure 3).

In reference to Claim(s) 17, Mancini shows the bearing surface ((52 to 64) and the nonplanar shoulder 56 have complementary mating shapes in the plane that goes into the paper.

In reference to Claim(s) 18, Mancini shows a retaining member 50 with bearing surface ((52 to 64) and electrical contact 34 having a nonplanar shoulder 56 contacted by nonplanar bearing surface ((52 to 64); and

The nonplanar shoulder 56 and the bearing surface ((52 to 64) have complementary shapes in a plane going into the page with a blade/ projection section 60 extending into a recess section (below 56 and near the lead line of numeral 60 figure 3) to form a wedging contact between the bearing surface ((52 to 64) and the nonplanar shoulder 56.

In reference to Claim(s) 20, the projection section/ blade 60 has at least one inclined lateral wall 58 and the recess section has at least one mating inclined lateral wall 56.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claim(s) 19 has(have) allowable subject matter.
- Claim(s) 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2833

- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show the unique structure of the bearing surface has a projection section and the nonplanar shoulder has the recess. This structure, in combination with all the other elements of the claim is not seen to be anticipated by the prior art and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.
- If the application becomes allowable, any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter".

Response to Arguments

-- Applicant's arguments filed in response to the previous office action have been considered, but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

- Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

Art Unit: 2833

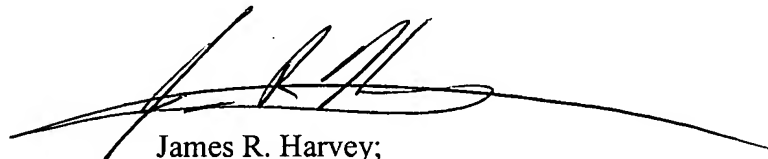
MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

jrh
June 11, 2006



James R. Harvey;
Primary Examiner